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Serial No. 10/055,162  
Attorney Docket No. 44471/266135  
Response to Final Office Action of 07/14/2006  
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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 7, and 13-14 have been amended in the foregoing amendment to clarify certain aspects of the claimed invention.

Claims 1-14 Are Patentable over Schloss

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,125 to Schloss et al. ("Schloss"). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the group work control system displays the work items for the respective work steps based on the schedule file, determines whether previous works of the work items have been completed, and if not, then displays an alternative work flow.

Schloss describes a computer-assisted method for scheduling events. The events are in the medical domain and include the scheduling of chemotherapy sessions. Schloss describes that the invention can also be used in connection with other types of scheduling, but does not provide any details for scheduling outside of the healthcare industry.

In rejecting Claim 5, the Examiner alleged that Schloss describes a logic operation device which is configured to judge whether or not previous works have been finished in advance of the work items as provided. The sections of Schloss relied upon by the Examiner to reject Claim 5 describe that Schloss determines the values of certain parameters and based on the values can delay, cancel, or modify scheduled events. For example, Schloss describes determining a patient's ANC count (a blood count) and based on the ANC count delaying and adjusting the dosage of a prescribed medication. Column 9, line 61-Column 10, line 19. Schloss only describes determining the value of certain parameters. Schloss does not describe determining whether previous works of the work items have been completed, as required by Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over Schloss.

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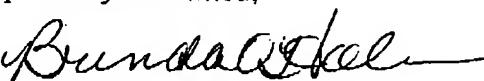
Claims 2-14

Independent Claims 7, 13 and 14 have been amended to clarify the invention and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 2-6, and 8-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1 or 7. Accordingly, Claims 2-6 and 8-12 also should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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